

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A collaborative interaction network system comprising:
 - means for entering login data for a user;
 - means for inputting basic user profile data elements;
 - 5 means for receiving user characteristics data including
 - means for text entry of user created data elements;
 - means for proportional selection of data elements predetermined by the system;
 - means for calculating a universe of profile and characteristics data for all users
 - 10 based on similarity to the profile and characteristics data of a particular user;
 - means for displaying a representation of the universe of data as single points in multidimensional relation to a point representing the data of the particular user, the displaying means scalable in range from the entire universe of data to data for users in a close neighborhood of the particular user's profile and characteristic data; and,
 - 15 means for expansion of a selected one of the single points for display of the profile and characteristic data of the user associated with the selected one single point.
2. A collaborative interaction network system as defined in claim 1 wherein the proportional selection means comprises a slider associated with a predetermined term, the slider adjustable through a range of applicability of the predetermined term to the user.
- 20 3. A collaborative interaction network system as defined in claim 1 wherein the proportional selection means comprises a sandbox for receiving a plurality of attributes selectable by the user.
4. A collaborative interaction network system as defined in claim 3 wherein the sandbox further comprises a plurality of proportionality bins in which the selected
- 25 attributes are placed based on relative applicability to the user.
5. A collaborative interaction network system as defined in claim 1 wherein the expansion means further comprises:

means for displaying a specific comparison of the particular users profile and characteristic data and the profile and characteristic data of the user associated with the selected one single point.

6. A collaborative interaction network system as defined in claim 1 wherein the expansion means further comprises:

means for initiating contact with the user associated with the selected one single point.

7. A collaborative interaction network system as defined in claim 1 wherein the expansion means further comprises:

- 10 means for storing the profile information of the user associated with the selected one single point in a database specific to the particular user.

8. A collaborative interaction network system as defined in claim 1 wherein the single points on the displaying means further include secondary indicia of available data included for the user associated with the selected one single point.

- 15 9. A collaborative interaction network system as defined in claim 8 wherein the secondary indicia comprises a variable icon representing the single points.

10. A collaborative interaction network system as defined in claim 8 wherein the secondary indicia comprises a variable color applied to an icon representing a single point.

- 20 11. A collaborative interaction network system as defined in claim 1 wherein the multidimensional relation is a polar plot and the calculating means calculates a segment and radius for each point representing the data for a particular user.

12. A collaborative interaction network system as defined in claim 3 wherein the proportional selection means further includes a plurality of selectable categories of attributes, the attributes in each category further selectable by the user for placement in the sandbox.

13. A collaborative interaction network system as defined in claim 1 wherein the means for receiving user characteristic data further includes means for accepting uploaded files.

14. A collaborative interaction network system as defined in claim 1 further comprising means for searching the universe of profile and characteristics data based on a selected one of the user created data elements, profile data elements or predetermined data elements.

15. A method for collaborative interaction on a network comprising the steps of:
receiving login data entered by a user;
receiving basic user profile data elements;
receiving user characteristics data including
text entry of user created data elements and
proportional selection of data elements predetermined by the system;
calculating a universe of profile and characteristics data for all users based on similarity to the profile and characteristics data of a particular user;
displaying a representation of the universe of data as single points in multidimensional relation to a point representing the data of the particular user, the display scalable in range from the entire universe of data to data for users in a close neighborhood of the particular user's profile and characteristic data; and,
expanding a selected one of the single points for display of the profile and characteristic data of the user associated with the selected one single point.

16. A method for collaborative interaction on a network as defined in claim 15 wherein the proportional selection includes the step of providing a slider associated with a predetermined term, the slider adjustable through a range of applicability of the predetermined term to the user.

17. A method for collaborative interaction on a network as defined in claim 15 wherein the proportional selection includes the step of providing a plurality of attributes

selectable by the user for placement in a sandbox indicating applicability of that attribute to the user.

18. A method for collaborative interaction on a network as defined in claim 15 wherein the step of expanding further includes the step of displaying an introductory card
5 with representative data of the user.

19. A method for collaborative interaction on a network as defined in claim 17 wherein the step of providing a plurality of attributes selectable by the user for placement in a sandbox includes providing a plurality of proportionality bins in which the selected attributes are placed based on relative applicability to the user.

10 20. A method for collaborative interaction on a network as defined in claim 15 wherein the step of expanding further includes the step of displaying a specific comparison of the particular users profile and characteristic data and the profile and characteristic data of the user associated with the selected one single point.

21. A method for collaborative interaction on a network as defined in claim 15
15 wherein the step of expanding further includes the step of initiating contact with the user associated with the selected one single point.

22. A method for collaborative interaction on a network as defined in claim 15 wherein the step of expanding further includes the step of storing the profile information of the user associated with the selected one single point in a database specific to the
20 particular user.

23. A method for collaborative interaction on a network as defined in claim 15 wherein the step of displaying further includes displaying secondary indicia on the single points representative of available data included for the user associated with the selected one single point.

25 24. A method for collaborative interaction on a network as defined in claim 23 wherein the secondary indicia comprises a variable icon representing the single points.

25. A method for collaborative interaction on a network as defined in claim 23 wherein the secondary indicia comprises a variable color applied to an icon representing a single point.

26. A method for collaborative interaction on a network as defined in claim 15
5 wherein the multidimensional relation is a polar plot and the calculating step calculates a segment and radius for each point representing the data for a particular user.

27. A method for collaborative interaction on a network as defined in claim 17 wherein the proportional selection further includes a plurality of selectable categories of attributes, the attributes in each category further selectable by the user for placement in
10 the sandbox.

28. A method for collaborative interaction on a network as defined in claim 15 wherein the step of receiving user characteristic data further includes accepting uploaded files.

29. A method for collaborative interaction on a network as defined in claim 15 further
15 including the step of searching the universe of profile and characteristics data based on a selected one of the user created data elements, profile data elements or predetermined data elements.